



Clothing Ourselves With ...

“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.” Colossians 3:12–15, NLT

How are you doing with life?

With all the hoopla in current politics, the ‘Pandemic,’ the ‘Vaccine,’ my favorite fast-food establishment is closed to ‘dine-in’; bla, bla, bla. I confess, I get critical, irritated, and judgmental. If you’re like me, you don’t want to complain, but... I’m ready to be **‘back to normal’!**

Recently, Jeanine and I memorized and regularly review Colossians 3:12-15. I know I have mentioned this passage before, but isn’t it just like God to continually use His word to get our attention and show us what’s wrong with our hearts? I thought these were great verses to put to memory at the time, but never considered they would keep pestering me, reminding me of my complaining attitude. **Thank you God!**

The Apostle Paul says we should clothe ourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Oh boy! That does it! Have you struggled with any of these in the last year?



God is asking me, where’s your tender-hearted mercy? Where’s your humility? Where’s your patience?

Oh, I think I can be kind. I think I can be gentle. But, my strong sense of justice causes me sometimes to be critical and judgmental. This is not God’s justice, nor is it His tenderhearted mercy, and without that, I really can’t be kind, humble, gentle or patient with the people and circumstances that surround me.

Who are the people you are closest to; your family, your friends, your workmates? I bet they know you pretty well and they know how to push your buttons! The people closest to you know your flaws better than anyone. Have you ever heard the phrase ‘familiarity breeds contempt?’ Or, ‘fish and visitors smell in three days?’ We know how to get under their skin, and they know how to get under ours.

Colossians 3:12-15 encourages us to “make allowance for each other’s faults.” We have all been challenged with the confines of this last year’s ‘Corona Virus.’

And, most Americans are getting tired of wearing a mask every time you go into a restaurant, Walmart, the Doctor, etc. It’s stressful! In times of high stress, it’s easier to zero in on the faults of someone else than to admit our own. You say, “Oh! I would never do that! I don’t have faults. I am getting testy! If I’m honest, nope, it’s really my pride.”

Paul ends by encouraging us to “always be thankful.” What? How can that be? He is chained up in a jail cell! Amazingly, he was living those words out. Paul was thankful in all circumstances. Can we be thankful even in our current circumstances? I wonder if the secret to making allowances to each oth-

Mission

Freedom Ministries of the Quad Cities exists to help couples and individuals experience freedom in Christ through identifying and resolving spiritual and emotional conflicts thus strengthening, empowering and helping fulfill their relationship with Jesus Christ and others.

Thank You

Our hearts are so grateful to all of you for your involvement in this ministry. Your prayers and gifts are much appreciated.

er's faults is to always be thankful.

God commands us to clothe ourselves with love. With what will you clothe yourself ?

Today I choose compassion – that I may show mercy to the misfortunate and the suffering.

+ Today I choose kindness – that I may help and encourage those in need.

+ Today I choose humility – that I may place the interest of others before my own.

+ Today I choose gentleness – that I may be calm and cooperative under stress.

+ Today I choose patience – that I may accept delays and difficulties without getting angry.

+ Today I choose forbearance – that I may exercise patient self-control and restraint.

+ Today I choose forgiveness – that I may give to others what I have so freely received.

+ Today I choose love – that I may live in peace and harmony with others, especially my brothers and sisters in Christ.

CFTH Zoom Conference

WE INVITE YOU TO OUR CARING FOR THE HEART ZOOM CONFERENCE

April 12-13, 2021

This Zoom WEBINAR will be: APRIL 12 & 13, 2021 (Monday & Tuesday Evenings) There will be two main sessions and one testimony each evening. The CFTH Conference on Zoom Webinar is free and will have a capacity of 500 registrations. To register go to www.caringfortheheart.com.

WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021

We will offer three separate Workshops.

These Workshops will each feature a different topic, will start at different times and each will have a separate Zoom Meeting link. There will be a \$15 registration fee for each workshop and each workshop will have a capacity limit of 90 registrations. To register go to www.caringfortheheart.com.

Birdies for Charity

If you have a desire to help individuals and couples find freedom in Christ, please prayerfully consider using the enclosed form to donate to Freedom Ministries of the Quad Cities. The John Deere Classic Charitable Corporation sponsors Birdies For Charity in association with the John Deere classic golf tournament, July 5—11, 2021. The goal of the program is to obtain pledges (donations) for non-profit organizations. Only flat donations will be accepted, they will no longer be accepting per birdie pledges. You may pledge a one-time flat donation or send your check along with your form.

You may still guess the number of birdies for a chance to win a two year lease on a 2021 Lexus!

Donating through the "Birdies For Charity" event is easy and 100% of your donation, plus additional BONUS BUCKS, go directly to us. Simply fill out the enclosed pledge form, noting the amount you wish to give, your name and address and mail the left half of the form to Freedom Ministries in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you!



Praise and Prayer

Praise

- ◆ For a God's sustaining this ministry through a difficult year.
- ◆ For God's sovereignty on this earth even when events seem so out of control. We know that He is in control.

Prayer

- ◆ For each couple or individual who contacts this ministry to find healing and freedom in their relationship with God and others.
- ◆ For God's timing concerning teaching Biblical Counseling class at WATS in Lagos Nigeria.

If you no longer want to receive the newsletter, please contact us. Our email address is: freedomministries@att.net or write to: Freedom Ministries, P.O. Box 953, Moline, IL 61266-0953